POL 14 VIETS
(1053)

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00 CIAE 00 SSO 00 DODE 00 USIE 00 NSAE 00 CCO 00 SAL 01
GPM 03 SC 01 RSC 01 USIA 12 H 02 NSC 10 L 03 INR 07 P 04 CIA 04
DOD 01 SP 02 SS 35 SAH 03 AID 30 RSR 01 IO 21 /160 W

P R 090530Z SEP 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6508
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4182
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2478

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5533

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS SEPTEMBER 9 [redacted] ORGANIZER FOR TRAN VAN HUONG IN SEPTEMBER 3 ELECTIONS, NOT ONLY MADE CLEAR THAT HUONG WILL NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN ANY PROTEST ACTION AGAINST ELECTION OF THIEU AND KY BUT ALSO MADE CLEAR REASON WHY, INDICATING THAT MEMBERS OF HUONG CAMP HOPE TO OBTAIN CABINET POSTS. [redacted] SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT HUONG CAMP WILL TAKE NO ACTION WHICH WOULD TEND TO UNDERMINE PRESTIGE OF NEW VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT THIEU GOVERNMENT BUT GOVERNMENT OF VIET-NAM AND TO ATTACK CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS NOW WOULD

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ONLY HELP VIET CONG.

2. [redacted] SAID HUONG SUPPORTERS MET SEPTEMBER 8 AND WILL

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REVIEWED BY [redacted] DATE 12/24/96
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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MEET AGAIN SEPTEMBER 10 TO DETERMINE WHO AMONG THEM SHOULD ACCEPT OFFER OF CABINET POST, IF ANY, MADE BY THIEU AND KY. [redacted] SAID HUONG SUPPORTERS HAVE DECIDED THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT AS INDIVIDUALS BUT ONLY AS REPRESENTATIVES OF HUONG'S ORGANIZATION. THUS, THEY WILL BRING REAL SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT. SEEMS CLEAR THAT [redacted] WHO WAS COMMISSIONER [redacted] HOPES AND PERHAPS EXPECTS TO BE AMONG THOSE DESIGNATED AS REPRESENTATIVES OF HUONG ORGANIZATION. [redacted] OBSERVED THAT HUONG HIMSELF UNLIKELY TO TAKE CABINET POST. 6-1 ed

3. [redacted] WHO WAS UNSUCCESSFUL SENATE CANDIDATE ON LIST [redacted] COMMENTED WRYLY ON SENATE ELECTIONS, COMPLAINING THAT BALLOTS FOR HIS LIST WERE NOT HANDED OUT IN SOME SAIGON POLLING PLACES. HE ADDED THAT RESULTS BROUGHT QTE TOO MANY CATHOLICS UNQTE INTO SENATE,

BUT HE MADE NO SPECIFIC CHARGES OF VOTING MANIPULATION IN SENATE CONTEST.

4. REGARDING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AS WHOLE, [redacted]

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COMMENTED THAT STRONG PERFORMANCE OF TRUONG DINH DZU WAS SURPRISE TO EVERYONE BUT THIEU AND KY, IMPLYING THAT GVN HAD MANIPULATED RESULTS TO GIVE SECOND PLACE TO DZU. ASKED ABOUT REPORTS THAT VC HAD ORDERED THEIR SUPPORTERS TO VOTE FOR DZU, [redacted] SAID HE HAS HEARD THAT IN SOME AREAS VC ORDERED THEIR SUPPORTERS TO VOTE FOR THIEU AND KY, IN HOPE THAT CORRUPTION AND INEFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE, FROM WHICH VC WOULD BENEFIT. ON OTHER HAND HE ALSO HAS HEARD IN OTHER AREAS VC TOLD PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR ANYONE BUT TO BRING BACK BALLOT OF THIEU-KY TO PROVE THEY HAD NOT VOTED FOR THEM. [redacted] CONCLUDED HE COULD OFFER NO PARTICULAR REASON WHY DZU HAD TURNED IN SUCH STRONG PERFORMANCE.

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